

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02

USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 SCCT-01 /041 W

----- 120518

R 131410Z MAY 75

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 930

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 172

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, U.K. (N.I.)

SUBJECT: KILLING OF CONSTABLE MAY SLOW RELEASE DETAINEES

REF: (A) BELFAST 169 (B) BELFAST 166

1. DELIBERATE ASSASSINATION BY PROVISIONAL IRA OF YOUNG ROYAL ULSTER CONSTABULARY (RUC) PATROLMAN LONDONDERRY (REFTEL A) LED TO REVIEW CEASEFIRE SITUATION BY SECSTATE MERLYN REES AND SECURITY CHIEFS MAY 12. IN STATEMENT FOLLOWING MEETING SECSTATE EMPHASIZED CONSISTENCY OF GOVERNMENT ACTIONS DURING CEASEFIRE. HE NOTED RELEASE OF 247 DETAINEES SINCE LAST DECEMBER 22, THAT HE HAS SIGNED NO RPT NO INTERIM CUSTODY ORDERS SINCE FEBRUARY 9 AND THAT LEVEL ARMY ACTIVITY CONSIDERABLY REDUCED. HE REITERATED COMMONS STATEMENT OF JANUARY 14 THAT IF VIOLENCE RETURNED SECURITY FORCES WOULD DEAL WITH IT RESOLUTELY. KEY SENTENCE WAS: "THIS ACT OF VIOLENCE BY THE PROVISIONAL IRA IS BOUND TO SLOW DOWN RATE AT WHICH PROGRESS CAN BE MADE." SECSTATE APPEALED FOR COMMUNITY HELP FOR SECURITY FORCES CITING POOR RESPONSE FROM BOTH COMMUNITIES EQUALLY IN LONDONDERRY AREA AND DUNGANNON "MURDER TRIANGLE" AREA (OF SECTARIAN KILLINGS OF CATHOLICS BY PROTESTANT TERRORISTS).

2. IN SEPARATE STATEMENT RUC DENIED PROVISIONAL ALLEGATIONS
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THAT ARRESTED REPUBLICAN WAS MISTREATED CAUSING PROVISIONALS

TO RETALIATE BY MURDERING CONSTABLE.

3. MOST COMMENTATORS SEE REES STATEMENT AS INDICATIVE
INTENT SLOW RATE OF RELEASE DETAINEES. CRITICISM LEVELED
AT REES PERSONALLY AND BRITISH POLICY GENERALLY FROM ALL
POINTS. LOYALISTS HAVE REVIVED "SECRET DEAL" CHARGES,
DEMANDED CAMPAIGN AGAINST PROVISIONAL IRA AND TWO SECOND
ECHELON POLITICIANS HAVE CALLED FOR REES RECALL. WILLIAM
DOUGLAS OFFICIAL UNIONIST CONVENTION MEMBER FROM LONDONDERRY
SAID "IF MR. REES IS FOOLISHLY CONTINUING WITH SAME NONSENSE
OF PEACE WITH THE PROVISIONALS LET IT BE CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD
THAT WHEN THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR LAW AND ORDER IS RETURNED
TO ULSTERMEN AS A RESULT OF THE CONVENTION, THERE WILL BE
NO PEACE FOR THE MURDERERS, BUT ONLY THE SWORD."
REPUBLICAN AND CATHOLIC REACTION GENERALLY, IS THAT ANY
SLOWING DOWN OF RATE RELEASE DETAINEES IS PROOF THAT
GOVERNMENT USING POLITICAL HOSTAGES.

4. CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION RULES COMMITTEE (REFTEL B)
MET FIRST TIME MAY 12 UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP IAN PAISLEY IN
ATMOSPHERE DESCRIBED AS "AMICABLY FORMAL."

SPICER

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NNN

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